

Uniroyal barred from all federal contracts

Uniroyal Inc., the operating contractor at the Joliet Army Ammunition Plant for the past 30 years, has been barred from all contracts with the federal government.

Franklin J. Forsythe, a government representative, said Uniroyal is no longer eligible for future work contracts with the government. Existing contracts are in the process of being terminated.

The major producer of rubber, plastics and chemical products lost its eligibility as a federal contractor when it refused to provide information on alleged race and sex discrimination at one of its facilities. The Department of Labor ordered Uni-

royal be debarred from contracts last June 28. Uniroyal has been operating the Joliet Plant on a caretaker status, since no ammunition is manufactured here at this time.

Forsythe said bids are now being taken for a new operating contractor. The Army's existing contracts with Uniroyal at the JAAP and the Newport Army Ammunition Plant in Newport, Ind., will be terminated Dec. 29 for a smooth transition from the present to the new contractor.

Forsythe said Uniroyal can be reinstated as a federal contractor when it complies with federal regulations designed to protect the job rights of

women and minorities. He said it is possible the debarment order by the Labor Department be lifted by December.

The two Army plants are part of the U.S. Army Armament Material Readiness Command headquartered in Rock Island. The federally owned facilities at Joliet and Newport are equipped to manufacture explosives and propellants. There are 335 employees at the Joliet plant and 254 at Newport.

Forsythe said it is possible the employees would remain at the plant under the new contractor if Uniroyal is not reinstated.